

Information Services Board Briefing Paper on the Status of Agency Certification of Portfolios and Disaster Recovery Plans

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Description

The Department of Information Services (DIS) will summarize the status and common themes/issues of agency certification letters for portfolio management and disaster recovery/business resumption.

Background

In 2001, the Information Services Board (ISB) IT Security Policy was revised to require all executive and judicial branch agencies and educational institutions under the purview of the ISB to submit an annual security certification letter. The purpose of the letter was for agencies to describe the status of their program, identify tasks completed in the past year, and define the tasks that must be completed for full compliance with the security policy and standards. Following this successful model, in April 2002, the ISB approved the modification of the IT Portfolio Management Policy and IT Disaster Recovery and Business Resumption Planning Policy to require submittal of letters certifying the agencies' compliance with these policies and related standards.

Status

Letters from 44 agencies have been received to date regarding portfolio management and/or disaster recovery compliance. Although over 120 agencies, boards and commissions could have responded, this response represents over 90 percent of the total IT budget and IT FTEs for the state. An analysis of the letters indicates the following:

Portfolio Management

- Agencies indicating they have completed the development or update of their portfolios: 32
- Agencies indicating they are still in the process of updating: 7

Disaster Recovery/Business Resumption

- Agencies indicating they have completed the review and update of their disaster recovery plans: 29
- Agencies indicating they are still in the process of reviewing and updating: 14

Several positive trends were noted in the content of the letters:

- Agencies are utilizing the e-Portfolio web application to electronically submit Section 3 of their portfolios. This will provide a database of information for DIS to use in composing the biennial IT Performance Report to the Legislature.
- Agencies are now reviewing and updating their portfolios as part of their annual business and IT planning process.
- Many agencies are now recognizing the importance of developing disaster recovery/business resumption plans related to their web and application servers.

Issues

- Will the legislature fund agency decision packages for disaster recovery initiatives?
- Will agencies test their disaster recovery/business resumption plans in a realistic manner?

Recommendation

DIS should follow-up with agencies that have not submitted letters of compliance or have indicated non-compliance with either of the policies and report back to the Board.